

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of December 9, 2014**

- I. **ROLL CALL.** Select Board Chair John Quinn III, Selectmen Kevin T. Beal (absent), Brad Denny, Dennis Donahue, Lynn Doney (absent), Matthew Gadbois, Kenneth W. Goslant, K. David Maxwell, and James R. Wilson (absent). Also present were Town Manager Jeffrey Schulz, Acting Clerk Kenneth McCann, and Kathleen Lott (*Northfield News*).

Chair Quinn called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m. (The meeting began late so that a scheduled budget meeting could be concluded.)

- II. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.** The Board members and the public were asked to rise and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

- III. **SET/ADJUST AGENDA.** Manager Schulz stated that because of tonight's snowstorm, the individuals who had asked to address the Select Board under "Public Participation," John Malter (MRRMA) and Tawnya Kristen (GMTA), had asked to be rescheduled for another time.

- IV. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (SCHEDULED):** None.

- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. **November 25, 2014 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 5-0-1, with Selectman Gadbois abstaining.**
- b. **December 2, 2014 (Budget Meeting #1).** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**
- c. **December 4, 2014 (Budget Meeting #2).** Motion by Selectman Goslant, seconded by Selectman Gadbois, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

- VI. **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

- a. **Warrant #12-15.** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve Warrant #12-15 in the amount of \$1,367,190.30. Selectman Maxwell noted that of this total, \$991,790 represented property taxes collected by the Town and forwarded to the Northfield School District. Manager Schulz added that an additional \$237,624 was a power purchase for the Northfield Electric Department (NED). Selectman Gadbois is disappointed that there are more attorney bills for a certain legal matter. Manager Schulz stated that since soon there will be a property sale related to this, there should be at least a couple more. He added that the Town will be using local attorneys for similar zoning matters in the future. Selectman Goslant has been concerned about the amount of money spent on this particular matter for some time and has become increasingly doubtful that this will ever go away. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**
- b. **Warrant #12-15A.** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve Warrant #12-15A in the amount of \$148,200.00. Selectman Donahue said this was a NED stock purchase that will bring equity shares. The Select Board had authorized this purchase at a previous regular meeting (10/28/14). **Motion passed 6-0-0.**
- c. **Bi-Weekly Payroll through November 23, 2014.** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve the bi-weekly payroll in the amount of \$87,125.19. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

- VII. **SELECT BOARD**

- a. **Capital Expense Note (2013 Ford F350 One Ton Truck).** Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to approve and sign the Capital Expense Note in the amount of \$57,066 at 1.19% interest; to approve and sign the Capital Expense Borrowing Resolution; and to approve and sign the No-Arbitrage and Use of Proceeds Certificate. Manager Schulz noted that this is the refinancing of an existing loan at a lower interest rate. Chair Quinn believes that the vehicle involved actually is a Ford F550, not a F350. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

- b. **Public Facilities Grant Application (Flood-Damaged Buyout Properties).** As indicated in Zoning Administrator Michele Braun's memorandum, the Town of Northfield applied for and received a grant from the Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission (TRORC) to hire a landscape architect. The architect would work with the Town and other entities to determine what best to do with the parcels on which the flood-damaged buyout structures (some of which already have been razed) were situated. Since new structures cannot be put on the land, the area will need to be landscaped in order to permit future use as public recreation areas, etc. Since this remains a flood zone, any improvements would be minimal. The estimated total cost of this project is \$27,150. Since this is a 90/10 grant, the Town would receive about \$24,435 and is allowed to make up the difference with "in-kind" services. Motion by Selectman Donahue, seconded by Selectman Denny, to formally accept the grant award and authorize Chair Quinn to sign the Subgrant Agreement form. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**
- c. **Economic Development Committee Meeting.** The Committee's next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 11, 2014, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Community Room just prior to the next Town Budget meeting. Selectman Maxwell asked if the proposed timeline for the economic development plan would be ready in time for the meeting. Manager Schulz confirmed that it would.
- d. **December 2014 Select Board Meeting Schedule.** In the packets was a calendar for the month that shows the remaining budget meetings scheduled for this year (12/11/14, 12/16/14, and 12/18/14). The budget meetings will resume after the holiday season. There also is the question of whether the second regular meeting this month (12/23/14) will be cancelled. Manager Schulz said that should the meeting be cancelled, the warrant that would have been approved that night can be approved by signature at the December 18, 2014 budget meeting. This action then would be validated at the first regular meeting in 2015 (01/13/15). There were no objections to this course of action. The calendar also indicates that the Municipal Building will close at 12:00 noon on Christmas Eve and the building will remain closed until the following Monday morning (12/29/14).

VIII. BOARD MEMBERS' COMMENTS, CONCERNS, QUESTIONS

- a. **Robinson Road.** Selectman Goslant asked if the entirety of this road is being plowed even though the Select Board has taken formal steps to privatize its eastern loop. Manager Schulz said road maintenance will continue until the process has been completed. A public hearing will need to be held as the next step before the section of the road is "thrown up." There also needs to be an agreement in place with the adjacent landowners to assure public access to the cemetery located on Robinson Road.

IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT. Manager Schulz has been focused on budget matters for the past couple weeks so there was no written report this week. He is available at any time should Select Board members have questions regarding ongoing projects, etc.

X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (UNSCHEDULED). There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Selectman Denny, seconded by Selectman Donahue, to adjourn. **Motion passed 6-0-0.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kenneth L. McCann

Kenneth L. McCann, Acting Clerk

An audio recording of this meeting is available in the Town Manager's Office.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular Select Board meeting.